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SUBJ: BIOGRAPHIC DATA ON PROBABLE NEW AUSTRIAN FOREIGN MINISTER

REFS: (A) STATE 185640 (B) VIENNA 6141 (C) VIENNA 6154

1. DR WILLIBALD PAHR STILL REMAINS LEADING CANDIDATE TO BECOME NEXT AUSTRIAN FOMIN IN KREISKY SOCIALIST GOVT IN SPITE OF CONTROVERSY OVER HIS REPORTED EARLIER DERIVATIVE MEMBERSHIP IN OPPOSITION PEOPLE'S PARTY AND OVER GRUMBLINGS AMONG SOME SOCIALISTS AS TO WHY SOCIALIST GOVT NEEDS TO CHOOSE NON-SOCIALIST FOR POSITION WHEN NUMBER OF PROMINENT, ABLE SOCIALISTS (E.G. AMB JANKOWITSCH) ARE AVAILABLE. CHANCELLOR HAS DESCRIBED PAHR IN RECENT DAYS AS STRONG CANDIDATE FOR JOB AND HAS INDICATED HE WILL SOUND OUT PARTY LEADERSHIP ON SUBJECT BEFORE MAKING PUBLIC IN MID-AUGUST PARTY'S CHOICE FOR POSITION. BIO DATA ON PAHR FOLLOWS.

2. IN CHOOSING A SUCCESSOR TO FOREIGN MINISTER ERICH BIELKA, CHANCELLOR KREISKY PASSED OVER SEVERAL MORE PROMINENT INDIVIDUALS AND SELECTED DR WILLIBALD PAHR FROM RANKS OF HIS CLOSE PERSONAL ADVISORS. PAHR, WHO HAS NOT PREVIOUSLY BEEN HEAVILY INVOLVED IN FOREIGN AFFAIRS, HAS SERVED AS HEAD OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL LAW SECTION OF THE CHANCELLOR'S OFFICE SINCE 1973, HAVING BEEN A MEMBER OF THE SECTION SINCE 1955. A JURIST SPECIALIZING

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IN CONSTITUTIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL LAW, PAHR HAS ESTABLISHED

AN INTERNATIONAL REPUTATION IN THE FIELD OF HUMAN AND CIVIL RIGHTS AS A MEMBER, SINCE 1961, OF THE EXPERT COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT IN STRASBOURG AND AS PRESIDENT OF THAT COMMITTEE FROM 1973 TO 1974. IN THIS AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL BODIES PAHR REPORTEDLY HAS EARNED THE REPUTATION OF BEING A TALENTED COMPROMISER WITH A WELL-HONED SENSE OF LOGIC AND TACTICS COMBINED WITH A DISARMING PERSONAL CHARM.

3. HIS WORK IN AUSTRIA HAS CENTERED ON REFORM OF VARIOUS NATIONAL LAWS. ALTHOUGH NOT GENERALLY IN LIMELIGHT, PAHR HAS OCCASIONALLY COME TO PUBLIC ATTENTION IN CONNECTION WITH REFORM ISSUES SUCH AS ABORTION (SUPPORTING GOVERNMENT EFFORTS TO REMOVE CRIMINAL SANCTIONS AGAINST ABORTION ON DEMAND, DESPITE HIS CATHOLIC BACKGROUND), REFORM OF THE MEDIA LAWS AND THE OMBUDSMAN LAW. PAHR IS ALSO CREDITED WITH HAVING DRAFTED RECENTLY ENACTED CONTROVERSIAL AUSTRIAN MINORITY LAWS. IN THIS CONNECTION HE WAS SENT BY CHANCELLOR KREISKY ON A WELL PUBLICIZED MISSION TO BELGRADE IN MID-JULY TO EXPLAIN MINORITIES LEGISLATION TO GOY.

4. BORN IN VIENNA 5 JUNE 1930, PAHR WAS EDUCATED IN CITY OF HIS BIRTH, RECEIVING DOCTORATE IN LAW FROM UNIVERSITY OF VIENNA IN 1953. SUBSEQUENTLY HE ATTENDED COLLEGE D'EUROPE IN BRUGGE, BELGIUM. BEFORE ENTERING GOVT SERVICE IN 1955, HE WAS AN ASSISTANT FOR TWO YEARS TO PROFESSOR ALFRED VENDROSS AT INSTITUTE FOR INTERNATIONAL LAW AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AT UNIVERSITY OF VIENNA.

5. PAHR'S WIFE, INGE, IS ALSO AN AUSTRIAN CITIZEN AND REPORTEDLY A PRACTICING CATHOLIC. THE COUPLE HAS 2 CHILDREN, A DAUGHTER, KATHARINA (12) AND A SON, MARTIN (13). PAHR'S FAVORITE VACATION SPOT IS LIGNANO IN NORTHERN ITALY AND HE ENJOYS SKIING, SWIMMING AND MOUNTAIN CLIMBING. HIS LIKES REPORTEDLY INCLUDE: BAROQUE MUSIC AND MOZART, WHITE WINE, 19TH CENTURY HISTORY, IMPRESSIONIST PAINTERS, SPRINGTIME AND THE CITY OF STRASBOURG. IN ADDITION TO GERMAN, PAHR SPEAKS GOOD ENGLISH AND FRENCH.

6. ASKED BY PRESS WHERE HE STANDS ON POLITICAL SPECTRUM, PAHR DESCRIBES HIMSELF AS "MODERN-PROGRESSIVE CONSERVATIVE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WITH BOURGEOIS BACKGROUND" WHO HAS NO DIFFICULTY SUPPORTING POLICIES OF KREISKY GOVT. PAHR, IS, IN HIS OWN WORDS, NOT NOW MEMBER OF ANY AUSTRIAN POLITICAL PARTY BUT HAS IN PAST BEEN MEMBER OF PEOPLE'S PARTY LABOR LEAGUE (A SUBORGANIZATION OF THE OPPOSITION PEOPLE'S PARTY (OVP). THIS FACT HAS GENERATED A MINOR POLITICAL STORM WHICH STILL SURROUNDS PAHR'S PROBABLE NOMINATION. (IF NOMINATED, HE WOULD NOT FORMALLY TAKE OFFICE UNTIL EARLY SEPT.) KREISKY AND VICE CHANCELLOR HAEUSER HAVE

BOTH EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE IN PAHR WHO IS TAKING HUMBLE
POSITION THAT NOMINATION IS A GREAT HONOR TO HIM NO MATTER
WHAT OUTCOME.

7. MFA SOURCES DESCRIBE PAHR AS COMPETENT LEGAL EXPERT, ABLE
EXECUTIVE, EFFECTIVE MANAGER, AND LOYAL KREISKY MAN. GENERAL
FEELING IN MFA IS THAT PAHR APPOINTMENT WOULD RESTORE TO MFA
SOME SEMBLANCE OF ORDERLY DECISION-MAKING PROCEDURES AND OF
ATTENTION TO PRESSING PROBLEMS AND ISSUES. AT SAME TIME NOMINATION
IS SEEN BY MFA AS INDICATIVE OF KREISKY'S DETERMINATION TO
REMAIN HIS OWN FOREIGN MINISTER ON MAJOR ISSUES.

8. EMB POUCHING ALL AVAILABLE BIO DATA AND RECENT PHOTO
OF PAHR. TRINKA

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